

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of performing sociometric analysis of a group of ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren, comprising, in a single software application on a digital computer:
creating a sociometric questionnaire comprising ~~at least one~~ a plurality of sociometric questions related to social status and/or social relationships, each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential nominations corresponding to the ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren in said group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;
accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;
analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a sociometric analysis of social status and/or social relationships; and
outputting said sociometric analysis.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a sociometric questionnaire comprises:
displaying a plurality of predetermined questions having a known relationship to be included in said sociometric questionnaire;
accepting a user's selection of said questions; and
generating a questionnaire containing said selected questions.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~each~~ one or more of said questions solicit[[s]] nominations for a designation selected from the group consisting of Liked Most[[,]] and Liked Least[[,]] ~~Is Aggressive, Is Picked On, Is Teased, Is Weird, Is a Friend, and Is a Best Friend.~~
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said group of ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren is divided into subgroups, and further comprising:
accepting ~~said individuals'~~ the schoolchildren's names by subgroup; and

assigning a unique identifier to each ~~said individual~~ schoolchild other than the schoolchild's name.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren are sorted by first name upon accepting said names.

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying on a computer screen a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and indicating selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said displayed nominations being designated by a user.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising performing error checking on acquired sociometric data by re-executing the steps of claim 7 for at least one said question; and comparing the nominations for said question between the originally accepted data and the data obtained from said re-execution.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising flagging any errors detected by said error checking.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising correcting any errors detected by said error checking.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises, for each ~~individual~~ schoolchild:

summing the total nominations that ~~individual~~ schoolchild received from other ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren for each question; and standardizing said sum within said group;

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein nominations from at least two questions are summed and standardized, generating a First Standardized Factor (SF1) and a Second Standardized Factor (SF2), and further comprising:

computing a first score by subtracting said ~~individual's~~ schoolchild's SF1 from that

~~individual's~~ schoolchild's SF2;

computing a second score by summing said ~~individual's~~ schoolchild's SF1 and that

~~individual's~~ schoolchild's SF2; and

standardizing said first and second scores by the nominating group to generate a First Standardized Score (SS1) and a Second Standardized Score (SS2).

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising classifying said ~~individual~~ schoolchild into one of six sociometric social classifications according to the following rules:

First Sociometric Class: $SS1 > 1$, $SF1 < 0$, and $SF2 > 0$;

Second Sociometric Class: $SS1 < -1$, $SF1 > 0$, and $SF2 < 0$;

Third Sociometric Class: $SS2 < -1$, $SF1 < 0$, and $SF2 < 0$;

Fourth Sociometric Class: $SS2 > 1$, $SF1 > 0$, and $SF2 > 0$;

Fifth Sociometric Class: $-0.5 < SS1 < 0.5$ and $-0.5 < SS2 < 0.5$; and

Sixth Sociometric Class: all others.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said SF1 is generated from nominations indicating the ~~individual~~ schoolchild is Least Liked, and wherein said SF[[1]]2 is generated from nominations indicating the ~~individual~~ schoolchild is Most Liked.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating probability scores for each of said six sociometric social classifications indicative of the reliability of said ~~individual's~~ schoolchild's social classification within the respective group.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating strength scores for each ~~individual~~ schoolchild indicative of the degree to which said ~~individual's~~

schoolchild's social classification within the six respective sociometric classifications is fixed versus fluid.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises means for calculating probability scores associated with sociometric classifications.

18. (cancelled)

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating self-nominations.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating a scatterplot diagram having coordinate axes indicating sociometric values.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein points representing selected ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren are highlighted on said scatterplot diagram.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said group of ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren is divided into subgroups, and wherein points representing the ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren within selected subgroups are highlighted on said scatterplot diagram.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein spatial regions of said scatterplot corresponding to sociometric social classifications are indicated.

24. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating a slider bar diagram for one or more of said sociometric questions.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the linear extent of said slider bar represents the range of responses to said sociometric question, and an indicator locates one or more ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren along said slider bar in spatial proportion to said ~~individual's~~ schoolchild's ranking in said group with respect to said sociometric question.

26. (currently amended) A system for performing sociometric analysis of a group of ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren, comprising:

an input device;

a display; and

one or more processors programmed to:

create a sociometric questionnaire comprising ~~at least one~~ a plurality of sociometric questions related to social status and/or social relationships, each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential nominations corresponding to the ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren in said group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;

accept the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a sociometric analysis of social status and/or social relationships; and

output said sociometric analysis.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to accept the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to:

output on said display a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and

indicate selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said displayed nominations being designated by a user via said input device.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to classify said ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren into one of a plurality of sociometric social classifications, and to calculate and report probability and strength scores associated with said classification.

29. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to detect and indicate reciprocal nominations.

30. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to detect and indicate self-nominations.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to output said sociometric analysis comprises said processors programmed to generate output selected from the group consisting of a scatterplot diagram having coordinate axes indicating sociometric values and a slider bar.

32. (currently amended) A computer readable carrier including a program that causes a digital computer to perform sociometric analysis of a group of ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren, the computer program causing the computer to perform the steps of:

creating a sociometric questionnaire comprising ~~at least one~~ a plurality of sociometric questions related to social status and/or social relationships, each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential nominations corresponding to the ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren in said group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;

accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a sociometric analysis of social status and/or social relationships; and

outputting said sociometric analysis.

33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying on said display a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and

indicating selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said
displayed nominations being designated by a user via said input device.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises classifying said ~~individuals~~ schoolchildren into one of a plurality of sociometric social classifications, and calculating and reporting probability and strength scores associated with said classification.

35. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating reciprocal nominations.

36. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating self-nominations.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 32, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating output selected from the group consisting of a scatterplot diagram having coordinate axes indicating sociometric values and a slider bar.

38. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein one or more of said questions solicit nominations for a designation selected from the group consisting of Is Aggressive, Is Picked On, Is Teased, Is Weird, Is a Friend, and Is a Best Friend.